

Good Evening members of the County Council! My name is Maddy Mathew! I'm a proud sophomore at Thomas Wootton High School and part of our SGA. Today I'm here before you to speak about Wootton's failing infrastructure, and more specifically, the bathrooms.

Thomas Wootton High school is ranked 2nd in Maryland High Schools and number 167th in the nation. With these high rankings, many would think students would be provided with a nice, clean, professional, and functioning school building, but that's not the case. Wootton has mold filled walls, a dysfunctional temperature system, missing ceiling tiles, and steep walkways. But the worst of all are the bathrooms.

Last year my family and I moved from North Carolina to the Wootton area. My father insisted on me coming to Wootton due to its high academic rankings and standards. Last year, as an incoming freshman, I imagined Wootton would be grand and pristine, yet I was met with disappointment.

I refuse to use the bathroom because of how unhygienic and disgusting they are. Each Wootton bathroom has a putrid smell when you first walk in. The surrounding grout on the bottom of the walls is covered in mold and dead bugs. Not only is it unappealing to look at, but it's dangerous to one's health. As you know, exposure to mold can lead to symptoms such as stuffy nose, wheezing, and red or itchy eyes. Long term effects of exposure to mold toxins in children create memory problems, disorientation, and dizziness. These long term effects greatly affect students' learning process as a whole. And so I ask, should a student have to choose between using the restroom or inhaling mold and other toxins.

Another problem with the bathrooms is that the toilets are old, which causes them to leak and clog easily. This is a risk to the health and safety of the students. If a person or object touches or gets sprayed with toilet water they could get infected with E. Coli. A toilet leak on

the floor can cause mold to grow on the floor and under the toilet. This hints as to why all the bathrooms carry a smell and why the tiles in many of the bathrooms are uneven.

Many students wait till they get home to use the bathroom because of how awful the conditions of the bathroom are. Why do students have to put up with these problems? Members of the County Council I urge you to renovate our school. The students at Wootton shouldn't have to suffer because of the board's lack of funding for Wootton infrastructure problems.